



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Legislators Praise DNR Agreement Ending 25-year Charlie Lakes Road Dispute

LANSING – State Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) and State Representative Stephen Adamini (D-Marquette) today joined with Marquette County Road Commissioners (MCRC) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to applaud the successful resolution to a 25-year dispute over the maintenance and repair of Charlie Lakes Road.

“This agreement finally brings some closure for the property owners along Charlie Lakes Road,” Prusi said. “I am pleased that a decision was reached and am happy to have been a part of the solution.”

The condition of Charlie Lakes Road has been an issue since the mid-70s. The issue was heightened in the 1980s when a group of retirees decided to make “camp” their permanent residence.

Prusi’s involvement with this project first began upon taking office in 1995 and continued throughout his tenure in the Michigan House of Representatives. He was eventually successful in securing Transportation Economic Development revenue for upgrades, but the funds were withheld pending resolution to a Constitutional argument on the conveyance of state land. The DNR refused to move forward with the deeds, arguing the separation of surface rights and the legality of providing gravel free of charge. Adamini was instrumental in keeping the issue at the forefront of the DNR and the MCRC until a true compromise was reached.

“This agreement gives both the county and the state a reason to celebrate,” Adamini said. “The settlement signifies the appreciation for compromise, where all sides deserve credit. Obviously we all realize that this situation continued for far longer than it should have and that something concrete needed to be done for the local residents.”

The compromise arrangement will incorporate Charlie Lakes Road into the MCRC system in exchange for three deeds transferring 160-acres of state-owned land for public use as gravel pits by the road commission.

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“This issue has been the single most popular complaint to U.P. legislative offices during the past 25 years,” Adamini said. “Today’s agreement brings a successful end to a complex and lengthy dispute.”

Both Prusi and Adamini agreed, “We had a specific goal to find a workable solution for future road upgrades and maintenance along this stretch of road. We salute the DNR and the MCRC in their steadfast efforts to reach a viable compromise that creates a win-win situation for everyone involved.”

Editor’s Note: Sen. Prusi’s most recent photo is available for download; please visit his website at: senate.michigan.gov/dem/sd38/photos.html.

Rep. Adamini’s photo is available for download; please visit his website at: <http://www.housedems.com/reptemplate.cfm?repID=1&view=1>

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